

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 21, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-27 were pending in this application. Claims 1-9, 17 and 24-27 were rejected. Claims 10-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 18-23 were allowed.

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-9, 17 and 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,112,263 in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0142674.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 10, thus claim 1 should be now be allowable. Claims 3-9 and 17 depend from claim 1, and contain all limitations thereof.

Claims 24-27 have been canceled.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 10-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 10. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 10 has been canceled, and claims 11-16 depend from claim 1, and contain all limitations thereof.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and /or divisional applications.

Applicant respectfully submits that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that may restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further requests reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicant believes that there are no other fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any other fees are due, including any fees for a further extension of time, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any and all fees due are charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 016295.1401.

Respectfully submitted,

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